

Memo



To: Town Council
From: Shirley A. Freeman, Assistant Town Manager
Date: January 27, 2010
Subject: Accommodations Tax Committee Recommendations

Town of Bluffton
20 Bridge Street
PO Box 386
Bluffton, SC 29910
843.706.4500
843.757.6720 (fax)

Recommendation: Town Council reviews for consideration the Accommodations Tax Committee recommendations for funding from their January 26, 2010 meeting.

Summary:

Funds Available

State ATAX received:	\$ 22,985
Per state law, first \$25,000 must go to the Town and five percent (5%) thereafter	\$ (1,631)
Per state law, thirty percent (30%) Chamber of Commerce	\$ (6,743)
Remaining Funds Available:	<u>\$ 14,611</u>
Local ATAX received:	\$ 41,598
Per Town Ordinance, Chamber of Commerce	\$ (3,296)
Remaining Funds Available:	<u>\$ 38,302</u>
Total Funding Available:	<u>\$ 52,913</u>

Accommodations Tax Committee Recommendations:

Requests for Quarter Ending December 31, 2009	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Bluffton Historical Preservation Society, Inc.	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Farmers Market of Bluffton	\$ 12,320	\$ 9,000
HHI Concours d'Elegance Inc.	\$ 10,000	\$ - *
Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra	\$ 6,000	\$ - *
Historic Bluffton Arts & Seafood Festival	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
The May River Theatre Company	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Old Town Bluffton Merchants Society	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000
Total	\$ 70,320	\$ 51,000

*Tabled until next quarter

A report of previously funded grants is attached for your convenience. Additionally, the Committee Meeting minutes are attached for your review.

ATAX Report
1/26/2010

	Amount Requested	Advisory Committee Recommendation	Town Council Approved	Source of Funding	Paid FY2010	Remaining
Applications Received June 30, 2009						
Heyward House Historic Center (Bluffton Historical Preservation Society)	\$ 99,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	Local ATAX	\$ 10,000	\$ -
Old Town Bluffton Merchant Society	\$ 14,472	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000	Local ATAX	\$ 7,000	\$ -
The May River Theatre Company	\$ 12,385	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	Local ATAX	\$ 3,000	\$ -
Historic Bluffton Arts & Seafood Festival	\$ 15,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	Local ATAX	\$ 5,000	\$ -
Total Grants for 1st Quarter Payments	\$ 140,857	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000		\$ 25,000	\$ -
Applications Received September 30, 2009						
Heyward House Historic Center (Bluffton Historical Preservation Society)	\$ 25,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 20,500	Local ATAX		\$ 20,500
Hilton Head Choral Society - 2009 Christmas Tour and Youth Choir	\$ 3,235	\$ 2,500	-			\$ -
Hilton Head Island Concours d'Elegance - Motoring Festival	\$ 10,000	-	-			\$ -
Historic Bluffton Arts & Seafood Festival	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	Local ATAX	\$ 5,000	\$ -
The May River Theatre Company	\$ 5,200	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	Local ATAX	\$ 5,000	\$ -
Old Town Bluffton Merchant Society	\$ 7,470	\$ 6,700	\$ 6,700	Local ATAX	\$ 5,402	\$ 1,298
Lowcountry Tourism Commission & Visitors Center & Museum	\$ 9,000	\$ 3,000	-	Local ATAX		\$ -
Total Grant for 2nd Quarter Payments	\$ 64,905	\$ 37,200	\$ 37,200		\$ 15,402	\$ 21,798
Applications Received December 31, 2009						
Applications Received March 31, 2010						
Grand Total	\$ 205,762	\$ 62,200	\$ 62,200		\$ 40,402	\$ 21,798

TOWN OF BLUFFTON ATAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2010

Chairman Queen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Committee members present were Collins, Dupuis, Huffman, King and Reeves. Assistant Town Manager of Finance Freeman and Town Clerk Lunceford were also in attendance.

Discussion of Committee Roles, By-Laws, Procedures and Applications:

Freeman reviewed the new ATAX Booklet that contains by-laws and general guidelines for the ATAX Advisory Committee. Freeman also stated Town Council requested during their Retreat for the committee to look at establishing a performance review for Applicants to get feedback on tourists and completion of projects. Council has stated that they want the Committee to focus on local applicants first.

She requested the Chairman appoint a committee to review any suggestions or revisions to the Booklet and incorporating council's requests. Huffman and Reeves volunteered to be on the subcommittee.

Freeman stated available funds for this quarter is \$52,913.

The Committee made recommendations on the following requests:

- 1) Bluffton Historical Preservation Society, Inc. – \$25,000. **Dupuis moved to approve \$25,000. King seconded. Vote was unanimous.**
- 2) Farmers Market of Bluffton – \$12,320. **Dupuis moved to approve \$9,000. King seconded. Vote was unanimous.**
- 3) Hilton Head Island Concours d'Elegance, Inc. – \$10,000. **King moved to table. Huffman seconded. Vote was unanimous.**
- 4) Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra – \$6,000. **Dupuis moved to table. Huffman seconded. Vote was unanimous.**
- 5) Historic Bluffton Arts & Seafood Festival, Inc. – \$5,000. **King moved to approve \$5,000. Dupuis seconded. Vote was unanimous.**
- 6) May River Theatre Co., Inc. – \$5,000. **King moved to approve \$5,000. Huffman seconded. Vote was five in favor. Dupuis abstained.**
- 7) Old Town Merchants Society - \$7,000. **Dupuis moved to approve \$7,000. King seconded. Vote was unanimous.**

Total recommended funding is \$51,000.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.